

I join in the President's strong condemnation of this latest terrorist attack and welcome our Nation's determination to help bring to justice those responsible for this cowardly act. I also join in extending our Nation's deepest sympathy and concern for the families of all those killed or injured in the service of their country.

FAMILIES FIRST

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I met with parents, children, and community leaders from my district, those who attended the Stand for Children march in Washington this month. Their overwhelming message was that it is time to reorder our Nation's priorities and it is time to put our children and families first.

That is the same message, Mr. Speaker, that Americans across the country are sending, and I am proud that the Democrats have responded with a realistic and commonsense agenda that puts families first, ahead of special interests.

That is right, our agenda is not about crown jewels, tax giveaways, or corporate and military pork. Rather, it is about practical changes we can make to improve the lives of families, changes like fully implementing the safe and drug-free schools program, providing \$10,000 tax deductions for education and job training, and making college a reality for more Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we blocked the Gingrich-Dole cuts to education, Medicare, and the environment. It became clear what Democrats are against.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, next week, on July 3, Americans will be preparing to celebrate our independence from the British empire over 200 years ago. They will have another reason to celebrate next week; July 3 is the day in which we become independent from having to work for the Government.

It is a sad fact, but a true fact that July 3 is the day in which the cost of all levels of government will finally be paid for. An even more amazing fact, it is not only taxes but also government regulations that we must pay for. In fact, regulations cost more to the average American citizen than the taxes that we pay.

I am happy to join with Senator COVERDELL in the other body and the gentleman from Texas, Majority Whip DELAY, in this body to be an original cosponsor of Cost of Government Day. I would urge all of my colleagues to join us in this resolution.

Let us tell the truth to the American people: Government costs too much, it spends too much money and it wastes a lot of the money that it spends. Let us begin to cut back on taxes, cut back on regulations, and have Independence Day from Government not on July 3 but sometime much earlier in the year.

MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS

(Mr. DICKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, the decision that Congress will make today with regard to most-favored-nation status represents an important step in defining our future trading relationship with China.

We are deciding today whether or not the United States will continue what I believe has been a constructive policy that encourages change with China while firmly expressing United States concern about human rights, protection of our intellectual property, and our desire to curb nuclear proliferation.

For the largest private employer in my State, the Boeing Co., renewing MFN with China is absolutely critical. In the period between 1992 and 1994, Boeing recorded \$5.3 billion in sales to China, representing one of the largest single positive influences in improving our balance of trade. In fact, one in every ten commercial jetliners made by the Boeing Co. during this period was sold to a customer in China. These jet sales supported 48,500 jobs in the United States for each of these years.

The jobs I am speaking of are not just at Boeing facilities, but at 4,500 commercial suppliers. That is why we should continue to support MFN.

U.S. MILITARY MUST EXPLAIN ITSELF

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, a video reached my office this week that shows scenes of meetings between senior U.S. military officers, including the head of the U.S. Atlantic Command, General Sheehan, and Cuban dictator Castro's senior general, Perez-Perez.

The video reflects a private coziness of the Clinton administration with the Castro regime, not-so-subtle reassurances by the administration that the United States would not stand on the Cuban people's side if the Cuban armed forces sought to liberate Cuba from Castro.

The tape also reflects, in all its sickening ignominy, the immorality of the Clinton administration's policy of forcefully repatriating Cuban refugees.

I believe that a number of things that the video shows merit serious congressional inquiry, and if the U.S. military officers involved do not volun-

tarily meet with Members of Congress to explain themselves, as we have requested, they should be compelled to do so.

REPUBLICAN MAJORITY STIFLES DEBATE ON GRANTING CHINA MFN STATUS

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will debate the issue of granting a special request to the President for a waiver to grant most-favored-nation status to China. This is an important issue to the American people. Nothing less is at stake than our economic future, our national security, and our democratic principles.

That is why it is so distressing to see the absurd rule that the Republican majority has put forth for this legislation. They want to railroad this legislation through the House in an untimely fashion. Our tradition has always been to have the Fourth of July week for our constituents to express their views to Members. Many constituents cannot afford the expensive trip to Washington, DC, that the business community has readily available to them.

What is the Republican majority afraid of? Are they afraid of the truth? Are they afraid of 100,000 young people gathered in Golden Gate Park to promote a free Tibet? Are they afraid that our colleagues will learn the facts about United States-China trade and that it is a job loser for the American worker?

It is absolutely a shame that on this most important issue the Republican majority is moving to stifle debate.

EITHER FIDEL CASTRO IS OUR ENEMY OR HE IS NOT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, south Florida was shocked earlier this week when a video was released showing top United States military officials exchanging gifts and pleasantries at the Guantanamo Naval Base with Cuban general and known Cuban assassin, General Perez-Perez.

At one point the chief of the U.S. Atlantic Command refers to the Cuban thug as "My General," while another tells Castro's communist partner that a plaque he received as a gift from him would be put in a place of honor.

I propose that if we must exchange gifts with Castro officials, let us give them an indictment for their criminal acts and a key to free jailed political dissidents. Let us give them a reproduction of the Statute of Liberty and a ballot, symbols of freedom and democracy.

This repugnant display of camaraderie of a top official of a totalitarian